

Communication Matters

Volume 5, Issue 8 • May 2005

2005 DODHH Silent Retreat!

July 15-17, 2005

Roscommon, MI

\$160 for 2 nights, 5 meals, classes,
and fun at the lake!

Registration Deadline:

June 20, 2005

Purpose:

The annual Silent Retreat provides an opportunity for those with basic American Sign Language skills to improve their skills through full immersion in Deaf culture in a casual and relaxed setting. Various activities throughout the weekend allow participants a chance to expand their skills and awareness of Deaf culture and to interact with Deaf adults.

For Whom:

Adults age 18 and older who have completed one year or two ASL college courses or the equivalent.

Take this opportunity to improve your sign language skills!

For more information:

Phone: 877-499-6232 V/TTY

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<http://www.mcdc-dodhh.org/>

National VR Data: *Hearing Loss*

Editors Note: The data provided below, and all notes and commentary, are from George Kosovich, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program Specialist for the Rehabilitation Services Administration /OSERS/ US Department of Education. I have made no attempt at further interpretation. For those of you who enjoy making sense of numbers, please consider sharing your insights. Forward your comments to Julie Eckhardt: jewel@chartermi.net

The information below is focused on the case closures for FY 2003 of persons who are employed at the time of their application for VR services. On page 2 you will find general closure data for VR clients coded as having a hearing loss.

RSA-911 Case Closures of Persons Employed at Time of Application in FY 2003

In FY 2003 there were 650,643 VR case closures of which 38,857 were for persons with hearing impairments who had applied for VR services and 611,786 applicants with other than hearing impairments as their primary disabling condition. Of those individuals with hearing impairment, 15,510 (40%) were gainfully employed when applying for services. At the same time, 64,785 (19%) of the applicants with any other disability were also gainfully employed when they applied.

A breakdown of the categories of persons with Hearing Impairment who were gainfully employed or not employed when applying for VR services follows:

Hearing Impairment	Homemakers	Employed	Not Employed	Total
Deafness (03)	150 (1.9%)	2102 (27%)	5703 (73%)	7805
Deafness (04)	61 (3.0%)	1115 (54%)	942 (46%)	2057
Hrg Loss (05)	86 (2.1%)	1909 (47%)	2133 (53%)	4042
Hrg Loss (06)	432 (2.9%)	9740 (65%)	5195 (35%)	14,935
Other HI (07)	43 (3.8%)	607 (54%)	519 (46%)	1,126
Deafblind (08)	47 (9.9%)	147 (31%)	328 (69%)	475

The above figures indicate that both Deafness - Visual (03) and Deafblind

Information or news related to Deaf or Hard of Hearing services may be forwarded to Julie Eckhardt at jewel@chartermi.net.

Views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily the views of Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth-Rehabilitation Services. Communication Matters is available on the web at www.michigan.gov/mrs and on the E-Learn Deaf & Hard of Hearing Resource Center.

VR Data Continued

(08) categories show relatively low numbers of applicants who were employed at application. The Hearing Loss -Auditory (06) shows significantly higher numbers of applicants than all other categories.

The numbers above are likely to be of no surprise. It has long been known that a good number of people with hearing loss return to VR agencies seeking assistance for the purchase of new hearing aids and/or other assistive technology. For those who need to be able to hear better in order to communicate on the job, a hearing aid can make the difference between being employed or not!

RSA-911 Case Closures for “03”-“08” Hearing Impairments in FY 2003

- 650,643 - The Total number of All case closures
- 38,857 - The number of case closures for individuals with hearing impairment (HI)
- 34,108 - The number of those closures for whom their HI was their “Primary” disability
- 4,749 - The number of those closures with HI as a “Secondary” disability
- 6.35% - The percent of all case closures that had HI as their disability

Case Closures for RSA-911 Category 03

- 10,162 - The number of “Deafness-Visual (03)” case closures (100%)
- 9,706 - The number of closures with HI as the Primary disability (95.5%)
- 456 - The number of closures with HI as the Secondary disability (4.5%)
- 4,958 - Closures with employment outcomes [EO] (49%)
- 2,834 - Closures without EO after receiving VR services (28%)
- 1,488 - Closures after eligibility, before an IPE (15%)
- 525 - Closures before eligibility from applicants (5%)
- 121 - Closures after eligibility from OOS list (1.2%)
- 90 - Closures after eligibility, before services provided (.9%)
- 46 - Closures during/after extended evaluation, before eligibility (.5%)

Case Closures for RSA-911 Category 04

- 2,822 - The number of “Deafness-Auditory (04)” case closures (100%)
- 2,493 - The number of closures with HI as the Primary disability (88%)
- 329 - The number of closures with HI as the Secondary disability (12%)
- 1,633 - Closures with EO (58%)
- 409 - Closures after eligibility, before an IPE (14.5%)
- 405 - Closures without EO after receiving VR services (14.4%)
- 313 - Closures before eligibility from applicants (11%)
- 29 - Closures after eligibility, from OOS list (1%)
- 19 - Closures after eligibility, before services provided (.7%)
- 14 - Closures during/after extended evaluation, before eligibility (.5%)

Case Closures for RSA-911 Category 05

- 5,028 - The number of “Hearing Loss-Visual (05)” case closures (100%)
- 4,362 - The number of closures with HI as the Primary disability (87%)
- 666 - The number of closures with HI as the Secondary disability (13%)
- 3,059 - Closures with EO (61%)
- 957 - Closures without EO after receiving VR services (19%)
- 604 - Closures after eligibility, before an IPE (12%)
- 295 - Closures before eligibility from applicants (6%)
- 78 - Closures after eligibility, from OOS list (1.5%)
- 22 - Closures after eligibility, before services provided (.4%)
- 13 - Closures during/after extended evaluation, before eligibility (.3%)

Case Closures for RSA-911 Category 06

- 18,595 - The number of “Hearing Loss-Auditory (06)” case closures (100%)
- 15,927 - The number of closures with HI as the Primary disability (86%)
- 2,668 - The number of closures with HI as the Secondary disability (14%)
- 12,661 - Closures with EO (68%)
- 2,209 - Closures without EO after receiving VR ser-

vices (12%)

1766 - Closures after eligibility, before an IPE (9.5%)

1434 - Closures before eligibility from applicants (7.7%)

442 - Closures after eligibility, from OOS list (2.4%)

54 - Closures after eligibility, before services provided (.3%)

49 - Closure during/after extended evaluation, before eligibility (.3%)

Case Closures for RSA-911 Category 07

1,580 - The number of “Other Hearing Impairments (07)” case closures (100%)

1,074 - The number of closures with HI as the Primary disability (68%)

506 - The number of closures with HI as the Secondary disability (32%)

849 - Closures with EO (53.7%)

241 - Closures after eligibility, before an IPE (15%)

226 - Closures before eligibility from applicants (14.3%)

219 - Closures without EO after receiving VR services (14%)

17 - Closures after eligibility, from OOS list (1%)

17 - Closures during/after extended evaluation, before eligibility (1%)

11 - Closures after eligibility, before services provided

Case Closures for RSA-911 Category 08

670 - The number of “Deaf-Blindness (08)” case closures (100%)

546 - The number of closures with D-B as the Primary disability (81.5%)

124 - The number of closures with D-B as the Secondary disability (18.5%)

295 - Closures with EO (44%)

177 - Closures without EO after receiving VR services (26%)

114 - Closures after eligibility, before an IPE (17%)

49 - Closures before eligibility from applicants (7.3%)

26 - Closures during/after extended evaluation, before eligibility (4%)

6 - Closures after eligibility from OOS list (.9)

3 - Closures after eligibility, before services provided

All Other Impairments

194,102 - Closures with employment outcomes (31.7%)

147,899 - Closures without employment outcomes after receiving VR services (24%)

136,223 - Closures after eligibility, before an IPE (22.3%)

115,183 - Closures before eligibility from applicants (19%)

8,534 - Closures after eligibility, from OOS list (1.4%)

5,121 - Closures during/after extended evaluation, before eligibility (.8%)

4,724 - Closures after eligibility, before services provided (.8%)

Notes for RSA-911 Case Closures for “03” - “08” Hearing Impairment Cases in FY 2003

1) In FY 2003 there were 38,857 VR case closures for individuals with hearing impairment. Of that number, 10,162 (26%) individuals were coded 03 (Deafness-Visual) for RSA-911 data and had their cases closed. It is assumed that most of these people use sign language as their primary communication mode. Of those 10,162 closures, 4,958 (49%) had their cases closed with employment outcomes. This group also had the highest percentage of cases closed without an employment outcome (EO) after receiving VR services, 28%, closely followed by the Deaf-Blind (08) group with 26% of such case closures.

2) Along with the above numbers for individuals with Deafness are those 2,822 VR consumers included in the code 04 (Deafness-Auditory) population who also had their cases closed in FY 2003. Of this group, there were 1,633 individuals with employment outcomes counted. The 1,633 EO closures were 58% of all closures for this (04) sub-group. At the same time, it is shown that there were 405 (14.4%) closures where there were no employment outcomes for consumers who had received VR services.

3) Case closures for individuals in the “Hearing Loss-Visual (05)” were counted out to be 5,028 or 13% of the 38,857 HI closures. Of these closures, 3,059 had employment outcomes or 61% of the 5,028 closures. At the same time, there were 957 case closures in this group that showed that VR services were provided but no EO took place, 19% of the case closures for this “05” group.

4) RSA Category “06 - Hearing Loss-Auditory” is the largest of all categories, almost as large as the other seven categories combined, shows 18,595 case closures, 48% of HI closures.

There were 12,661 case closures that claimed an employment outcome, 68% of all closures in this group.

Also, there were 2,209 cases closed where VR services were provided but no EO was established, 12% in this closure category.

5) The much smaller category “07 - Other Hearing Impairments” had 1,580 case closures, only 4% of all the HI case closures. There were 849 EO closures, 53.7% of the case closures in this category, while the 219 closures (14%) for cases where there were VR services provided but no employment outcomes.

6) Finally, the last category, “08 - Deaf-Blindness”, indicates that 670 such cases were closed and of these, 295 of the closures had employment outcomes (44%). As noted before, the closures for cases where VR services were provided but no EO took place was numbered at 177 or 26% of the closures for this group, second highest such percentage.

The data for those cases closed for populations coded 03 and 04 shows that there were almost a combined 13,000 case closures for those two population groups, most by far from the 03 group. Thus the 13,000 figure given above is 33.5% of all the 38,857 “Hearing Impaired” case closures. The combined numbers for sub-groups 05 and 06 total 23,623 (61%) case closures, most by far for persons from the 06 categorical group, generally referred to as those being hard of hearing. Thus the numbers add up to 94.5% of the 38,857 total of HI case closures. The remaining 2,250 (5.5%) includes the Other H.I. and the Deaf-Blind groups. In view of the estimated total number of 30 million people who have some level of hearing impairment, it is clear why many in the VR field agree that this is an underserved and unserved population.